

faded past! the close and searching inquiries of our sceptical age have proved their visionary character. The old gardener and his wife may have been, till they fell, simple and pure, but they were not the cultured, refined, well-informed couple we have been taught to fancy. They were children in wisdom and learning, though, fortunately for them, children also in vice and deception. With the learning and experience of the present day have come more opportunities for evil, and greater powers for doing wrong. The knowledge of good has gone hand in hand with that of evil.

Whateley, in one of his most interesting lectures, "The Origin of Civilisation," tried to throw light on perhaps the obscurest subject even he ever handled. With consummate ability and rare impartiality, though evidently unfriendly to the Darwinian theory, he reviewed the evidence on both sides. He pointed out the difficulties of the evolution theory, as well as those in the way of supposing that man was created pure and wise, then fell into sin, and then again slowly but gradually raised himself to his present high intellectual position. Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Taylor, and the Duke of Argyll have all three, with great patience, worked at the same difficult question. Although it requires more imagination than I possess to picture to myself Adam with the intellect of a Newton and the æsthetic tastes of a Burke or an Alison, it also, I confess, surpasses my credulity to conceive him with a facial angle of 45 degrees. There are strong reasons to question the view which makes the first man a rude savage, relying for self-preservation on experience he had not, and on weapons and arts he knew nothing of. There are, on the other hand, just as strong reasons for questioning his culture and wisdom. He doubtless came into existence knowing just enough to save himself from the speedy death, which the newly-created and helpless savage would have been unable to resist; at the same time he was far removed from the highly developed Adam of Milton, who with inquiring mind and great learning pondered the destinies of his unborn progeny, saw good in everything, and divine wisdom and perfection in every object on which his eye rested.